Intraduction of Private Sector in Postal Sehvises

2014. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce private sector into the postal services;

(b) if so, to what extent and what are the details thereof;

(c) whether introduction of private sector in postal services would increase the efficiency of the postal services;

(d) which are the foreign countries which have private sector in postal services; and

(e) what is the reason for not introducting the private sector into postal services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) No studies have been conducted in this matter.

(d) Government is not aware of any such practice in foreign countries.

(e) The Post Office Act 1398 confers exclusive privilege on the Central Government for carrying letters. It, however, does not impose any restriction on conveyance of other articles like packets and parcels by private sector or other government organisations like the Railways.

Revenue earned from Telecommunication and Postal Service

2015. SHRI GOPAL SINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned by Government from telephone, posts and telegraph services, district-wise, during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94; and

(b) the amount spent on these services during the above period in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (b) In the Department of Telecom. revenue and expenditure figures are not maintained "district-wise". These are maintained "Secondary Switching are a Wise". A secondary Switching area may or may not conform to a "district" as is commonly understood in the State Government. Similarly in the Department of Posts, these figures are maintained Head Post Office Wise, and not "District-wise". Revenue and expenditure figures SSA Unit wise in the case of Department of Telecom. and Head Post Office wise in the case of Department of Posts will be collected from subordinate offices and these will be laid on the Table of the House if desired.

Deation of a Corporation for Postal Department

2016. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestions for opening new post offices; if so, what are Government's plans in this regard;

(b) whether it is a fact that postal authorities are likely to be offered autonomy by creating a Corporation; if so to what extent the powers of post offices will be extended;

(c) whether it is a fact that the postal labour unions are opposing the formation of a Corporation and privatisation; if so; what are the reasons thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to introduce a Bill to replace the century-old Post Offices Act to give more powers to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Suggestions for opening post offices are received from time to time from various sources. These are examined keeping in mind departmental norms regarding distance, population and income and where justified, post offices are opened subject to availability of resources and allocation of targets.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) The Postal Unions have not raised any issue regarding the formation of a Corporation during discussions so far. However, the Unions are opposing forming out some activities of postal services to private individuals and organisations on the ground that it will result in non-expansion of the department and will also adversely affect the promotional prospects of employees.

(d) The Government have received recommendations for revision of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 from a Committee which was set up to review the present Act. A Bill to replace this Act can be finalised after Government decides on the recommendations of the Committee.

Introduction of Radio-Paging Service

2017 SHRI G. Y. KRISHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that radio-paging firms have sprung up overnight and several private companies, with no past, little present, but hopefully plenty of future have got themselves registered in different names in the hope of bagging at least one licence; and

(b) if so, which are the shortlisted firms and in which of the cities raido-paging services are being introduced and licence given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir, Department of Telecommunications invited tenders from registered Indian Companies for franchising of radio paging service on a non-exclusive basis in 27 cities. In all 83 bids were received. Out of these, 19 bidders were shortlisted on the basis of eligibility criteria. One of the eligibility condition was that the Indian company should have experience in the wide area radio paging system. In cases the Indian company does not have such experience, then it can have a foreign partner with requisite experience. All the 19 parties shortlisted met the eligibility criteria and financial tenders were issued to them. Financial tenders have since been evaluated and 15 bidders have been provisionally shortlisted. The shortlisted bidders have been asked to convey their acceptance by 11.3.1994. However, some of the unsuccessful bidders have filed civil writ petitions in the High Court of Delhi and the matter is *sub-judice*

(b) A list, indicating the names of the shortlisted bidders and the cities for which they have been provisionally shortlisted, is annexed.

Statement

List of provisionally shortlisted bidders for radio paging service (27 Cities)

S. No.	Name of the Company	Cities
1.	M/s. Arya Communications and Electronics, 105 Maker Chambers VI, 220, Nariman Point, Bombay—400021.	Bombay, Bangalore.
2.	M/s. Matrix Paging (India) Pvt. Ltd., Anil Chambers (Near Crown Mills), Andheri—Kurla Road, Sakimaka, Bombay—400072.	Pune, Vadodara, Rajkot, Surat.
3.	M/s. Telesistem (India) Pvt. Ltd., 23/1, XIth Main Road, Near Post Office, Vasant Nagar, Bangalore—560052.	Madras, Bangalore, Ernakulam, Coimbatore, Trivandrum, Madurai.